



## EUROPEAN PLATFORM ON LEARNING MOBILITY in the youth field

### International Conference

#### “Mobility Spaces, Learning Spaces - Linking Policy, Research and Practice”

Berlin, 20 – 22 March 2013, GLS Language Centre

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### “European Platform on Learning Mobility in the youth field” founded

From 20th – 22nd March 2013 in Berlin, Germany, the international conference “Mobility Spaces, Learning Spaces - Linking Policy, Research and Practice” discussed current issues of youth mobility with 85 invited experts from 26 countries across the European Union and beyond. The participants strongly confirmed the need for a **European Platform on Learning Mobility in the youth field**, which aims at facilitating a sustainable exchange and cooperation on learning mobility between the various actors in the youth field, especially researchers, practitioners, institutions and organisations.

The conference was hosted by the National Agencies for the YOUTH IN ACTION programme in Germany and Hungary, the German Research-Practice-Dialogue on International Youth Work, in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth.

Three specific keynotes on learning mobility in the youth field gave a thematic overview from different perspectives: practice, research and policy. For example, Chiara Gariazzo, Director of the Youth Department at the European Commission and keynote speaker for the policy perspective, called on researchers and practitioners to feed policy-makers with concrete results for an evidence-based and practice-oriented policy-making. Furthermore, there was one integrated keynote by Charles Berg from the Pool of European Youth Researchers which tackled the meaning and development of learning mobility in the youth field in general.

In a total of six workshops, the most important themes regarding learning mobility in the youth field were discussed based on three different inputs representing the perspectives of policy, practice and research in each of the workshops.

The workshop themes were:

- linking youth work and learning mobility,
- learning mobility for all and in diversity,
- information and guidance,
- competence and training,
- quality and recognition,
- impact, learning transfer and evaluation.



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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



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Some needs could be extracted from across all the discussions in the workshops. Firstly, more “concept work” is needed for a common understanding of learning mobility. This should involve the stakeholders from the youth field and make use of other related processes, e.g. the Strasbourg process on recognition of non-formal education. Secondly, the mapping of good practice in policy, research and practice of different cultural realities was considered one of the important tasks in the future. In this context, researchers are asked to make their results available and understandable. The idea of “research translators” on the one side, but also “mobility workers” on the other side was mentioned. Thirdly, in terms of inclusion and diversity, but also for evaluation, a learner-centered approach was discussed to be necessary.

Further results and recommendations for future activities ask for a common research strategy, the focus on local youth policy structures with European support or for real participation possibilities of young people, as well as for stronger political support on European level for the development of learning mobility in the youth field.

It was emphasized that the continuous dialogue and cooperation between the various actors produces an added value by furthering the development of learning mobility, its visibility and its recognition. The **European Platform on Learning Mobility in the youth field** has been approved to be an adequate structure in order to make that possible. Some of the participants even considered the Platform to become the recognized authority in its defined field of action. However, with this first conference, the Platform has reached a milestone enabling cooperation beyond the existing patterns as an interactive network connecting all the actors. In the future, the Platform intends to strengthen the involvement of local actors and young people themselves, as well as to enlarge the regional scope through stronger participation of non-EU countries.

The conference gave a Steering Group the mandate to systematize the recommendations from the conference and to realize the next concrete steps for the continuation and development of the **European Platform on Learning Mobility in the youth field**. Strong interest was expressed to build up thematic subnetworks, for example a researcher’s pool. The conference also asked for coordination of the Platform through the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth and took the decision for having a next conference in 2015.

Further information is available at [www.learningmobility.eu](http://www.learningmobility.eu)



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